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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,611	02/21/2001	Richard Carr	1330.1089	4560

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

07/88611

Applicant(s)

Corr

Examiner

Akers, g

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/21/01
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. on _____
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. Claims 32-61 are rejected under 35 USC 101 for failing to define a concrete, useful, and tangible result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-92 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ojha(US Pat. No:6,598,026) in view of Cameron(US Pat. No:5,839,117).

3. As per claims 1-92 Ojha teaches a plurality of organizational profiles maintaining business rules(Abstract)(Fig 13A-Fig 13K).Ojha further teaches bid and ask prices between buyers and sellers(Fig 2/210) including a multi-step process of negotiation between the buyers and sellers(Fig 2/214). Ojha further teaches the buyer saving product information to a shopping list for interests(Fig 2/206).Ojha teaches product lists(Fig 5) and dollar amounts(Fig 5).Ojha teaches product searches(Fig 7) including alternative merchants supplying a product with bid/ask prices on the product(Fig 8) as well as any product over all categories(Fig 9).Ojha teaches that the e-procurement system is a shared executable hosted e-procurement among many buyers and sellers(Fig 1)(Fig2).Ojha teaches making block sales (Fig 10/4) to utilize integration preferences and lowering prices. Ojha teaches rules in bid-ask activity(Fig 13A) with product category specific criteria(Fig 13C).Ojha also teaches creating new business rules(Fig 13E-13K). In addition to that taught by Ojha, Cameron teaches an e-procurement system where the business rules include workflow(Fig 4D)(col 7 lines 13-

21).Cameron teaches product search categories(Fig 4B/206) and product search classes(Fig 4B/207).Cameron also teaches product sub classifications which may also include financial products(Fig 4B/208). Cameron teaches account reconciliation(Fig 4D/414) and a shipment(Fig 4D/405) as well as a workflow shipping module(Fig 6/38).Cameron also teaches multi-attribute logic for products(Fig 9).Cameron also teaches performing a catalog search(Fig 17A/190) for items for sale as well as product information(Fig 17A/220).Cameron further teaches attribute choices(Fig 17B) as well as shipping screens for workflow(Fig 27A/270) and a shipping calendar(Fig 27A/280). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Ojha in view of Cameron to teach the disclosure. The motivation to combine is to teach an e-procurement system which provides through business rules, for streamlined order efficiency and access to a variety of database management systems as enunciated by Cameron(col 2 lines 32-38).

Conclusion

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.

5. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.



3/19/04

**DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.
PRIMARY EXAMINER**